

SECRET

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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[redacted] At the direction of General Carter, I contacted Mr. Robert Smart, Chief Counsel of House Armed Services Committee, and Mr. William Jordon, Executive Secretary to Senator Richard Russell, and asked that they pass on to Chairman Vinson and Chairman Russell the Director's confirmation of his previous information to them that while we were pleased by the release of the Cuban prisoners, this Agency was not involved. I subsequently passed this message to William Darden (our normal contact with the Senate Armed Services Committee) who was unavailable earlier in the day. (General Carter said the Director had asked that these messages be conveyed. The Director had read an article in a Hearst publication in California which stated that CIA had been very much in the picture in earlier attempts at release of the prisoners, but "unconfirmed reports" indicated that we were not involved in the current negotiations. The Director was concerned about the use of the term "unconfirmed.") I was assured that these messages would be delivered.

(P)
[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

cc:
Ex/Dir
DD/S
Colonel Grogan
Item - DDCI

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